NUMB. DV.

The SPECTATOR.

Non habeo denique nauci Marſum Augurem,
Non vicanos Aruſpices, non de Circo Aſtrologos,
Non Iſiacos Conjectores, non Interpretes ſomniûm:
Non enim ſunt ii aut ſcientiâ, aut arte Divini,
Sed ſuperſtitioſi vates, impudenteſque harioli,
Aut inertes, aut inſani, aut quibus egeſtas imperat:
Qui ſui quæſtûs causâ fictas ſuſcitant ſententias,
Qui ſibi ſemitam non ſapiunt, alteri monſtrant viam,
Quibus divitias pollicentur, ab iis drachmam petunt;
De divitiis deducant drachmam, reddant cætera Ennius.

Thurſday, October 9. 1712.

THOSE who have maintained that Men would be more miſerable than Beaſts, were their Hopes confined to this Life only; among other Conſiderations take Notice, that the latter are only afflicted with the Anguiſh of the preſent Evil, whereas the former are very often pained by the Reflection on what is paſſed, and the Fear of what is to come. This Fear of any Future Difficulties or Misfortunes is ſo natural to the Mind, that were a Man's Sorrows and Diſquietudes ſummed up at the End of his Life, it would generally be found that he had ſuffered more from the Apprehenſion of ſuch Evils as never happened to him, than from thoſe Evils which had really befallen him. To this we may add, that among thoſe Evils which befall us, there are many that have been more painful to us in the Proſpect, than by their actual Preſſure.

This natural Impatience to look into Futurity, and to know what Accidents may happen to us hereafter, has given Birth to a thouſand ridiculous Arts and Inventions. Some found their Preſcience on the Lines of a Man's Hand, others on the Features of his Face; ſome on the Signatures which Nature has impreſſed on his Body, and others on his own Hand Writing: Some read Mens Fortunes in the Stars, as others have ſearched after them in the Entrails of Beaſts, or the Flights of Birds. Men of the beſt Senſe have been touched, more or leſs, with theſe Groundleſs Horrors and Preſages of Futurity, upon ſurveying the moſt indifferent Works of Nature. Can any thing be more ſurpriſing than to conſider *Cicero*, who made the greateſt Figure at the Bar, and in the Senate of the *Roman* Common-wealth, and, at the ſame time, outſhined all the Philoſophers of Antiquity in his Library and in his Retirements, as buſying himſelf in the College of Augurs, and obſerving, with a religious Attention, after what manner the Chickens peckt the ſeveral Grains of Corn which were thrown to them?

Notwithſtanding theſe Follies are pretty well worn out of the Minds of the Wiſe and Learned in the preſent Age, Multitudes of weak and ignorant Perſons are ſtill Slaves to them. There are Numberleſs Arts of Prediction among the Vulgar, which are too trifling to enumerate, and infinite Obſervations of Days, Numbers, Voices, and Figures, which are regarded by them as Portents and Prodigies; In ſhort, every thing Prophecies to the ſuperſtitious Man, there is ſcarce a Straw or a ruſty piece of Iron that lies in his way by Accident.

It is not to be conceived how many Wizards, Gypſies and Cunning Men are diſperſed through all the Countries and Market Towns of *Great Britain*, not to mention the Fortune-Tellers and Aſtrologers, who live very comfortably upon the Curioſity of ſeveral well-diſpoſed Perſons in the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*.

Among the many pretended Arts of Divination, there is none which ſo univerſally amuſes as that by Dreams. I have indeed obſerved in a late Speculation, that there have been ſometimes, upon very Extraordinary Occaſions, ſupernatural Revelations made to certain Perſons by this means; but as it is the chief Buſineſs of this Paper to root out popular Errors, I muſt endea-

(Price Two-pence.)

endeavour to expoſe the Folly and Superſtition of thoſe Perſons, who, in the common and ordinary Courſe of Life, lay any ſtreſs upon things of ſo uncertain, ſhadowy and chimerical a Nature. This I cannot do more effectually than by the following Letter, which is dated from a Quarter of the Town that has always been the Habitation of ſome prophetick *Philomath*; it having been uſual, Time out of Mind, for all ſuch People as have loſt their Wits, to reſort to that Place either for their Cure or for their Inſtruction.

Moor-Fields, October 4, 1712.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'HAving long conſidered whether there be any 'Trade wanting in this great City, after 'having ſurveyed very attentively all kinds of 'Ranks and Profeſſions, I do not find in any Quarter of the Town an *Oneirocritick*, or, in plain *Engliſh*, an Interpreter of Dreams. For want of ſo uſeful a Perſon, there are ſeveral good People who are very much puzled in this Particular, 'and dream a whole Year together without 'being ever the wiſer for it. I hope I am pretty 'well qualified for this Office, having ſtudied by 'Candle-light all the Rules of Art which have 'been laid down upon this Subject. My great 'Uncle by my Wife's ſide was a *Scotch* Highlander, and ſecond-ſighted. I have four Fingers and 'two Thumbs upon one Hand, and was born 'on the longeſt Night of the Year. My Chriſtian and Sirname begin and end with the ſame 'Letters. I am lodged in *Moorfields*, in a Houſe 'that for this fifty Years has been always tenanted 'by a Conjuror.

'If you had been in Company, ſo much as my 'ſelf, with ordinary Women of the Town, you 'muſt know that there are many of them who e'very Day in their Lives, upon ſeeing or hearing 'of any thing that is unexpected, cry *my Dream is 'out*; and cannot go to ſleep in quiet the next 'Night, 'till ſomething or other has happened 'which has expounded the Viſions of the preceding one. There are others who are in very great 'Pain for not being able to recover the Circumſtances of a Dream, that made ſtrong Impreſſions 'upon them while it laſted. In ſhort, Sir, there 'are many whoſe waking Thoughts are wholly 'employed on their ſleeping ones. For the Benefit therefore of this curious and inquiſitive Part 'of my Fellow-Subjects, I ſhall in the firſt place 'tell thoſe Perſons what they dreamt of, who fancy they never dream at all. In the next place, 'I ſhall make out any Dream, upon hearing a ſingle Circumſtance of it; and in the laſt place, 'ſhall expound to them the good or bad Fortune 'which ſuch Dreams portend. If they do not preſage good Luck, I ſhall deſire nothing for my 'Pains; not queſtioning at the ſame time that thoſe 'who conſult me will be ſo reaſonable as to afford 'me a moderate Share out of any conſiderable E'ſtate, Profit or Emolument which I ſhall thus 'diſcover to them. I interpret to the Poor for 'nothing, on condition that their Names may be 'inſerted in publick Advertiſements, to atteſt the 'Truth of ſuch my Interpretations. As for Peo'ple of Quality or others who are indiſpoſed, and 'do not care to come in Perſon, I can interpret 'their Dreams by ſeeing their Water. I ſet aſide 'one Day in the Week for Lovers; and interpret 'by the Great for any Gentlewoman who is turn'ed of Sixty, after the rate of half a Crown per 'Week, with the uſual Allowances for good Luck. 'I have ſeveral Rooms and Apartments fitted up 'at reaſonable Rates, for ſuch as have not Conve'niencies for dreaming at their own Houſes.

N. B. I am not dumb.

Titus Trophonius.

Advertiſements and Letters continue to be taken in by S. Buckley, *at the* Dolphin *in* Little-Britain, J. Tonſon *at* Shakeſpear's-*Head in the* Strand, C. Lillie *at the Corner of* Beauford Buildings, *and* A. Baldwin *in* Warwick-Lane.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Lately Publiſh'd, by Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Katherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

☞ *C. Julii Cæſaris quæ extant. Accuratiſſimè cum Libris Editis & MSS optimis Collata, Recognita & Correcta. Acceſſerunt Annotationes Samuelis Clarke, S. T. P. Item Indices Locorum, Rerumque & Verborum Utiliſſimæ. Tabulis Æneis Ornata.*

At the ſame Place is alſo Publiſh'd,

☞ *Titi Lucretii Cari de Rerum Naturâ Libri Sex. Ad optimorum Exemplarium fidem recenſiti. Acceſſerunt Variæ Lectiones, quæ in Libris MSS & Eruditorum Commentariis notatu digniores occurrunt.*

This Edition of Lucretius *is Printed in Quarto, with the ſame Letter and Paper, as* Horace, Virgil, Terence, Catullus, &c. *have been already Printed at Cambridge.*

At the particular Deſire of ſeveral Ladies of Quality,

By her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Thurſday being the 9th Day of October, will be preſented a Comedy call'd, The Careleſs Husband. The Part of Lord Foppington by Mr. Cibber, Lord Morelove by Mr. Mills, Sir Chaſ. Eaſy by Mr. Wilks, Lady Betty Modish by Mrs. Oldfield, Lady Eaſy Mrs. Knight, Lady Graveairs Mrs. Porter. To which will be Added a Farce call'd The Country Wake. And to Morrow being Friday will be preſented a Comedy call'd The Old Bachelor. By Her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

The Corpus Omnium Poetarum Latinorum, ſecundum ſeriem Temporum, in two large Volumes Fol. being near finiſhed, will be ready to be deliver'd by the ſeventeenth of November next. Notice is now given that thoſe that have Subſcribed, or intend to do ſo, pay in their firſt Payment, and enter their Names by the 20th of November 1712. after which it will be ſold in Quires Small, and 5 Guineas Large Paper, it making about 50 Sheets more than propoſed, beſides the Large neſs of the Index, &c. The Undertakers are Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head in the Strand, John Nicholſon at the Queens Arms in Little Britain, and Bern. Took at the Temple Gate; where Subſcriptions are taken in, and at moſt other Booſellers in Town and Country.

Dropt from a Gentlewoman's Side, coming out of the Chapel in Duke-ſtreet Weſtminſter, laſt Sunday the 5th Inſtant, over-night, a Gold Watch Caſe, with a Cypher of a double M. in the middle of it. Whoever has found the ſame, and will bring it to Old Man's Coffee-houſe Charing Croſs, ſhall have 3 Guineas Reward, and no Queſtions aſked, or if offered to be Pawn'd or Sold are deſired to ſtop it, and give Notice as aforeſaid, and they ſhall receive the ſame Reward.

LONDON: Printed for *S. Buckley*, and *J. Tonſon*: And Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-lane*.